## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

An interface device for establishing an interface between a CPU and an external unit, comprising a timer portion, a mask portion and an interrupt controlling,

- 4 wherein:
- 5 said timer portion asserts a mask signal when
- 6 detecting that a wait signal outputted from said external
- 7 unit is kept asserted for more than a predetermined period
- 8 of time,
- 9 said mask portion masks said wait signal and outputs
- 10 it to said CPU when said mask signal is asserted; and
- Il said interrupt portion issues an interrupt signal
- 12 to said CPU when said mask signal is asserted.
  - 1 2. An information processing system comprising a CPU -
  - 2 and an interface device for establishing an interface
  - 3 between said CPU and an external unit, wherein:
  - 4 when said interface device detects that a wait signal
- 5 outputted from said external unit has been kept asserted
- 6 for more than a predetermined period of time, said
- 7 interface device masks the wait signal for outputting to
- 8 said CPU and issues an interrupt signal to said CPU.

- 1 3. An information processing system according to Claim
- 2 2, wherein said interface device comprises a timer portion,
- 3 a mask portion and an interrupt controlling portion,
- 4 wherein
- 5 said timer portion is adtivated when the wait signal
- 6 outputted from said external unit is asserted, and then
- 7 asserts a mask signal when said wait signal is kept
- 8 asserted for more than a predetermined period of time;
- 9 said mask portion masks said wait signal for
- 10 outputting to said CPU when said mask signal is asserted;
- 11 and
- 12 said interrupt controlling portion issues an
- 13 interrupt signal to said CPU when said mask signal is
- 14 asserted.
  - 1 4. An information processing system according to Claim
  - 2 3, wherein said CPU detects said interrupt signal thereby
  - 3 to recover said external unit.
  - 1 5. An information processing system according to Claim
  - 2 2, wherein said CPU detects said interrupt signal thereby
  - 3 to recover said external unit.